

ADULT SERVICES POLICY COUNCIL

Mission Statement: "Working together to meet the health and human service needs of adults and seniors."

Chair: Cindy Marie Absey, 781-5822, cabsey@co.slo.ca.us
Coordinator: Suzanne Heitzman, 772-6485, sheitzman@co.slo.ca.us

Members

Boards, Commissions and Community Groups

Adult Abuse Prevention Council
Commission on Aging
Drug and Alcohol Advisory Board
Health Commission
HIV Prevention, Advocacy and Care Consortium
Homeless Services Council
Medical Society of San Luis Obispo
Mental Health Board
SLO Supportive Housing Consortium

Non-Profit Agencies

AIDS Support Network
Area Agency on Aging
Arroyo Grande Community Hospital
Community Health Centers
Economic Opportunity Commission
French Hospital Medical Center
Hospice Partners of the Central Coast
HOTLINE
Independent Living Resource Center
Lifesteps Foundation
LTC Ombudsman
Senior Nutrition Program
Senior Peer Counseling
Senior Volunteer Services
Transitions/Mental Health Association
Tri-Counties Regional Center
United Way of San Luis Obispo

Private Organizations

Bates Care Case Management
Best Care
Gentiva Health Care Systems
Sierra Vista Medical Center
Twin Cities Community Hospital

Public Agencies

Housing Authority
IHSS Public Authority
San Luis County Departments of:
Behavioral Health / Drug and Alcohol
Services
Board of Supervisors
County Administrative Office
District Attorney / Victim Witness Assistance
Center
Probation
Public Health, Medical Services & Public
Guardian
Sheriff
Social Services
Veteran's Services

www.countyofslo.org/ASPC

Note room location for December only

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES
Veterans Hall, 801 Grand Ave
San Luis Obispo

Agenda

December 2, 2005
9:00 – 11:00 AM

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORRECTIONS / ADDITIONS TO THE SYNOPSIS

PUBLIC COMMENT—LIMIT TO 5 MINUTES

COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINIC

Operations: Larry Bacus
Contract: Marsha Bollinger

MEDICAL MANAGED CARE—Jess Montoya, Health Agency Director

CONSUMER "POINT OF ENTRY TRAINING" PROPOSAL, UPDATE –
Rick Cohen

ANNUAL EVENTS CALENDAR: Fund Raising – Volunteer Training –
Symposiums-Rick Cohen

ANNUAL REPORT—Cindy Marie Absey

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING—Suzanne Heitzman

Next meeting is January 6, 2006

9:00 – 11:00 AM
2975 McMillan Street
San Luis Obispo

P.O. Box 8119, San Luis Obispo, CA 93403-8119

SYNOPSIS of December 2, 2005 MEETING

NAME	AGENCY	Member/ Guest
Meredith Bates	Bates Care Management, Representative	Member
Marsha Bollinger	Public Health Department	Member
Penny Chamousis	Health Commission	Member
John Gannon, Ph.D	Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board	Member
Gary A. Hughes	Mental Health Board	Member
Paul Hyman	Drug & Alcohol Advisory Board	Member
Barry Johnson	Transitions-Mental Health Association	Member
Lillian Judd	Economic Opportunity Commission	Member
Edie Kahn	AIDS Support Network	Member
Angie King	Adult Abuse Prevention Council	Member
Colleen McLean	Commission on Aging	Member
Michael Piepenburg	Veterans' Services	Member
Helen Sampson	Linkages Project Manager	Member
Carol Schmidt	Senior Peer Counseling	Member
Karen Stenson	Long Term Care Ombudsman	Member
Ann Travers	Adult Services / Department of Social Services	Member
Tyler Brown	Mental Health Board	Guest
Greg Halfman	SLCUSD Adult School	Guest
Mary Miller	EOC / Ombudsman	Guest
Jess Montoya	Health Agency, Director	Guest
Suzanne Heitzman	Adult Services Policy Council	Coordinator

INTRODUCTIONS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The members went around the room, self-introductions, and announcements were made.

Lillian Judd: Lillian is happy to introduce the new Ombudsperson at EOC, Mary Miller.

Cindy Marie Absey: The First Responder committee has re-grouped and will meet again in January. This group addresses the issues first responders face when they respond to crimes against the elderly. If any members are interested in attending please call the Victim Witness office at 781-5821 for information regarding the meeting.

Karen Stenson: The Federal Budget Reconciliation Act proposes to make hefty cuts, (in the ballpark of \$50 billion), in food stamps, foster parent payments, and other human services. Karen asks the group to communicate with their representative to oppose the cuts. Bill Thomas, Member of the House of Representatives and Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, should be addressed along with the local representative. Suzanne will contact the office of Lois Capps for additional information and follow up.

ADDITION/CORRECTION TO THE MINUTES

Add Meredith Bates and Gary Hughes to the November “members present” list.

MEDI-CAL MANAGED CARE, JESS MONTOYA.

Jess Montoya, Director of the Health Agency, gave the group a presentation about the proposed Medi-Cal Managed Care (MMC) in Luis Obispo County. Jess has been in San Luis Obispo County in this capacity for 9 months, and views it as a great opportunity and challenge. The MMC Task Force was formed 6 months ago, with the purpose of evaluating Medi-Cal provider options in the county. The Governor crafted a process to save money in 22 counties in the managed care system, with the goal of increasing access, improving outcomes and saving costs.

CHC has saved the County money, and seen an improvement to access to health care in SLO County. The federal reimbursement rate available to CHC would not be negatively impacted by the managed care system.

There are multiple plans as options. Stanislaus went to a commercial plan using fee-for service but found this model didn't save much money.

Another model is the County Organized Health System (COHS). This system offers a structured health system and services for patients, much like an HMO. A COHS functions as a health insurance organization and is organized and operated by a governing board appointed by the county's Board of Supervisors. All Medi-Cal Beneficiaries residing within the County are required to enroll in the system.

Our County could go live as soon as January 08. Santa Barbara has been in since for 25 years. They have more participation by providers.

There is a need for access to specialists, and by increasing administrative efficiency for reimbursement it is hoped specialists will be attracted to participate in the plan. The following specialties are considered “carve outs” and are not included in the State plan: Drug and Alcohol Treatment; Dental; Mental Health. The Primary Care physicians are the gatekeepers of medical services. Primary care providers, specialists, and hospitals receive many benefits from the plan. They receive assistance dealing with member issues such as dealing with difficult patients, or addressing eligibility problems. The plans provide extensive training to the providers and employ an automated eligibility system designed specifically for Medi-Cal Managed Care. Primary Care providers also accept patient referrals without prior authorization and have received incentive program funds with savings generated by the program throughout the year. The primary care physicians triage the patients so only those requiring a higher level of care are referred to the specialists. Additionally, the COHS approves treatment authorization requests in a timelier manner, reducing the time from the current 10 days to 3 days. The specialists, therefore, get timely notification whether they will be paid for the services being requested. Further, the payments are higher than the Medi-Cal rates and they participate in reserve distributions at the end of the year when funding is available. Specifically, the rates which physicians are compensated are 120% of the Medi-Cal rate and some specialists receive higher rates based on the availability of service. The savings to the health care system come about because many patients currently wind up in emergency rooms when they are unable to access specialists due to the low reimbursement rates, and also they may see specialists inappropriately. Managed care plans contract with physicians and specialists and coordinate services on behalf of the patient to avoid some of these unnecessary costs.

Motion made by Gary Hughes to thank Jess Montoya for the presentation and mention the high spots. Colleen McLean 2nded the motion.

John Gannon mentioned that there is no addiction/psychology specialty care.

The motion was amended and carried, to have the Executive Committee develop the letter to Jess Montoya, and to mention the access to care and the needs of population.

CONSUMER “POINT OF ENTRY TRAINING:”

Rick Cohen was not in attendance, so Ann Travers addressed this topic. The issues are the preventive health grants, which are due in January. Whether we decide to apply for the “point of entry training” or some other service will be discussed and decided by the Council at the January meeting.

ANNUAL EVENTS CALENDAR:

This was Rick Cohen’s item and will be deferred.

ANNUAL REPORT:

Cindy Marie Absey addressed this item and explained that it is time for the Policy Council to make its annual report to the Board of Supervisors. The Executive Committee will be taking it up at its’ next meeting. It will cover presentations, action items, and reports.

CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING:

Suzanne Heitzman distributed a schedule of Crisis Intervention Training that is being developed for law enforcement. The purpose of the training is to give law enforcement members an overview about what behaviors to expect when they encounter an individual who is mentally ill. The group discussed whether it was desirable to develop a similar program for our staff. It was decided to form a subcommittee to investigate the existing training and determine if something should be customized for our purposes. John Gannon stepped up to facilitate the committee. Other members either volunteered or will be asked to participate: Helen Sampson, Tyler Brown, Lillian Judd, Carol Schmidt, and Janet Amanzio.

The next meeting will be January 7, 2005. WE WILL BE BACK AT OUR USUAL SITE ON MCMILLAN!

The topics of discussion will be the Preventive Health Care Proposal, and we will have a presentation by Tracy Vargas and Evan Mendelson about disaster planning and emergency preparedness.